

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight for a display device comprising:
a light source for emitting light, and
a diffuser disposed between the light source and a liquid crystal display device, wherein the diffuser is comprised of a continuous body of a first resin material and diffusion elements, each of the diffusion elements being comprised of a body of a second resin material different from the first resin material, and the diffusion elements are located within the continuous body of the first resin material and are completely surrounded and encapsulated by portions of the first resin material such that each of the diffusion elements has a portion of the first resin material located at a light incident side and a portion of the first resin material at a light emission side and further including a light distribution layer having a prismatic surface facing toward the liquid crystal display device, the light distribution layer comprised of a further body of second resin material layer applied directly on the first resin material of the diffuser, the prismatic surface being formed into a surface of the second further body of resin material, the further body of resin material being an extrusion formed adjacent to the diffuser layer.

Claims 2.- 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The backlight as described in claim 1, characterized in that:

said first resin material and said second resin material are resin materials having refractive index ranging from 1.2 to 1.7.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The backlight as described in claim 1, characterized in that:

 said diffuser further comprises a light receiving portion for receiving the light emitted from the light source, formed integrally with the diffuser, and disposed more toward the light source than the diffuser.

7. (Previously Presented) The backlight as described in claim 6, characterized in that:

 said light receiving portion has a prismatic shape on a surface thereof facing to said light source.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The backlight as described in claim 6, characterized in that:

 said light receiving portion is composed of said first resin.

Claims 10.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus comprising:
 a liquid crystal portion; and
 a backlight for illuminating the liquid crystal portion,
 wherein said backlight includes a light source for emitting light, and a diffuser disposed between the light source and the liquid crystal portion,
 wherein said diffuser is comprised of a continuous body of a first resin material and diffusion elements, each of the diffusion elements being comprised of a body of a second resin material different from the first resin material, and the diffusion elements are located within the continuous body of the first resin material and are completely surrounded and encapsulated by portions of the first resin material such that each of the diffusion elements has a portion of the

first resin material located at a light incident side and a portion of the first resin material at a light emission side, and further including a light distribution layer having a prismatic surface facing toward the liquid crystal display device, the light distribution layer comprised of a further body of second resin material layer applied directly on the first resin material of the diffuser, the prismatic surface being formed into a surface of the further body of second resin material, the further body of resin material being an extrusion formed adjacent to the diffuser layer.

17. (Original) The liquid crystal display apparatus as described in claim 16, characterized in that:

 said diffuser further comprises a light focusing layer for focusing the light emitted from the light source, formed integrally with the diffusion layer, and disposed more toward the light source than the diffusion layer.

Claims 18.-35. (Canceled)